



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan announces funding for five more Lafayette area companies to enroll in Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today Gov. Joe Kernan announced that five Lafayette area companies have joined the growing roster of Hoosier businesses enrolling in the state's new workforce development program, Indiana@Work.

White County's **Ball Corp.**, Tippecanoe County's **Eli Lilly and Co.**, **Endocyte** and **Lafayette Venetian Blind Inc.** as well as Clinton County's Frankfort's **NTK Precision Axle Corp.** have all signed on to the program. Together the companies will utilize a total of \$78,530 from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to assess the skills of 2,050 individuals and profile 17 different occupational categories at the five growing companies.

"The Indiana@Work program was designed to strengthen our workforce, and in turn help Indiana companies grow and prosper by focusing on the skills of individual workers and needs of companies," Kernan said. "By looking at the diverse and growing number of businesses enrolled, it is clearly a program that has been embraced across the state. We are pleased to welcome these five additional companies to the roster."

Monticello's **Ball Corp.** plant will use \$20,800 from Indiana@Work to offer skills assessments for 175 incumbent workers and up to 150 potential employees as it seeks to add up to 50 employees. The funding also will provide five job profiles, including maintainer, operator, adjuster, machinist/millwright and inspector. Founded in 1880 by the five Ball brothers, Ball Corp. originally manufactured wood-jacketed tin cans. Today, the company produces metal beverage containers, metal food containers and plastic containers, and provides aerospace technology for the Department of Defense and NASA. Employing 210 people, Ball's Monticello metal beverage container plant manufactures aluminum cans for the beverage industry.

"Although we are just embarking on WorkKeys with our external recruitment process, we recognize it can provide us with another tool by which we can enhance our hiring process," said Paula Thoennes, Ball Corp.'s Monticello human resource manager.

West Lafayette's **Eli Lilly and Co. Tippecanoe Laboratories** will receive \$13,050 to profile its bulk pharmaceutical operator position and assess the skills of up to 500 people. The company, which will lose about 300 workers through attrition, will also utilize Indiana@Work to fill up to 250 positions during the next four years. Employing 1,200 associates, the lab is the synthetic development and commercialization site for Eli Lilly and Co. Constructed in 1954, Tippecanoe Lab develops processes to provide the highest quality, safest and most environmentally responsible production.

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Indiana@Work also has dedicated \$13,400 to West Lafayette's **Endocyte**, a high-tech medical research firm located in the Purdue Research Park. With the funding, the company will offer skills assessments for up to 250 job applicants as it seeks to fill 50 openings. Endocyte also will profile its medical writer and senior clinical research associate positions. With 120 employees, Endocyte is developing a new generation of receptor-targeted therapeutics, known as "smart drugs," for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases.

"Finding the right fit with a company is important both to the job seeker and the employer," said Marchell Baker, Human Resource Generalist at Endocyte. "Indiana's new workforce development program is an incredible opportunity for employers to make that perfect fit within their company. We are excited to have this excellent tool to help Endocyte in its recruiting efforts."

Also located in West Lafayette, **Lafayette Venetian Blind Inc.** will use the \$16,640 funding to assess the skills of 355 incumbent workers and up to 45 potential new hires as it seeks to create 10 to 15 new jobs. The company also will profile its customer service representative, supervisor, delivery driver and maintenance positions. Founded in 1950, Lafayette Venetian Blind Inc. began as a manufacturer of venetian blinds and awnings. The company's current 791 employees manufacture a vast product line of window and room fashions under the brand name of Lafayette Interior Fashions.

Frankfort's **NTK Precision Axle Corp.** was awarded \$14,640 to assess the skills of up to 300 potential employees to fill 100 new positions. The company also will profile three positions, including the heat-treat, turning computer numerical control (CNC) operator and maintenance, with the funding. NTK Precision Axle Corp. currently employs 10 people and is a manufacturer of constant velocity (CV) joints and hub bearings. The CV joint is the flexible coupling that allows the outer wheel on an automobile to steer, and the shaft to follow the up and down motions of the suspension as the vehicle travels down the road. NTK Precision Axle Corp. was formed in 2003 as a joint venture between Takao Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Neturen Co. Ltd. and New Technology Network (NTN) Corp.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 27,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested nearly 700 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys®, the centerpiece of Indiana@Work, is a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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